

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 /089 W

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R 181130Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4912

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

ANEMBASSY LONDON 785

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0926

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, RH

SUBJECT: ZAPU DEFECTOR ACCUSED OF LEADING RHODESIAN TROOPS
IN NHAZONIA RAID

REF: MAPUTO 919

1. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE AUGUST 8 RAID ON NHAZONIA, THE LOCAL PRESS HAS AFFIXED MOST OF THE BLAME FOR THE SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF THE ATTACK ON MAURICE NHATI, A FORMER ZAPU COMMANDER. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS, PUBLISHED IN NOTICIAS OF MAPUTO AND NOTICIAS OF BEIRA, NHATI, WHO WAS WELL KNOWN TO SOME OF THE REFUGEES, ARRIVED AT NHAZONIA WITH A NUMBER OF PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICANS, ASKING TO SEE THE LEADERS OF THE CAMP. NHATI APPARENTLY TOLD ONE INTERLOCUTOR BEFORE THE SLAUGHTER STARTED THAT HE HAD VISITED NHAZONIA "MANY TIMES" AND WAS COMMANDER OF PROVINCIAL OPERATIONS FOR THE ZIMBABWE LIBERATION ARMY. MOST RECENTLY NHATI CLAIMED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN ZIMBABWE RECRUITING NEW MEN FOR THE ZIMBABWE ARMY. PRESS CLAIMED THAT IT WAS ONLY AFTER THE LEADERS HAD

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ASSEMBLED AROUND NHATI THAT THE ATTACK BEGAN.

2. COMMENT: GPRM'S WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW THE LOCAL NEWS MEDIA TO ATTACH THE BLAME FOR THE NHAZONIA MASSACRE ON ZAPU DEFECTORS SHOULD NOT PASS UNNOTICED. THE CON- DEMNATION OF NHATI IS PROBABLY A REFLECTION OF GPRM'S PREFERENCE FOR THE MORE MILITARILY COMMITTED ZANU AND ITS DISENCHANTMENT WITH ZAPU AS A WHOLE AND WHAT IS THOUGHT TO BE THE UNWILLINGNESS OF ITS CADRES TO FIGHT. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE OPEN CRITICISM OF THE ZAPU DEFECTORS MAY SIGNAL THE END OF THE FICTION (AT LEAST ON MOZAMBIQUE'S PARTY) THAT A JOINT ZANU-ZAPU THIRD FORCE EXISTS.
DE PREE

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